

# Eastern Express

November/December 2010

The Newsletter of the Eastern Library System—SSN 1064-3486

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Happy Holidays

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## Our Attitude of Gratitude



### Kathy is thankful for...

Friends and colleagues who when asked to model for the ELS Uncensored Librarian calendar said yes. We all learned a lot about each other!

Technology when it works and John Seyfarth when technology does not work. And that Nancy is the one doing our new web page.

The three essentials of life—hot tea, a good glass of wine and dark chocolate.

Our new office with more room and not having to climb the stairs.

That I can climb the stairs if I have too.

Eastern Library System Board of Directors who are wonderful to work with as they share their time and talents to help guide the system.

Colleagues and friends who suggest good books to read.

My assistant Nancy Meyer who has put up with me for a long time and thinks of all the things that I forget.

Brenda Ealey from the Southeast Library System who has such a passion for libraries. We need more librarians like her.

The print calendar I carry in my purse, yes, I know, I should get a smart phone, but it is always connected.

Any day in the winter when the sun shines.

People who enjoy life and make me laugh and there are many. I am blessed with wonderful, caring friends.

### Nancy is thankful for....

**Good health.** I'm really blessed to be able to say, even though I turned 60, I am very healthy. A couple of carpal tunnel surgeries early in 2010 have enabled me to still play a mean piano and organ at church.

**Good friends.** The support and encouragement from my friends in the library world, in my church, personally (old and new) and others, make life just that much sweeter.

**Great family.** How cool it is to have my kids and grandkids right here in Omaha. With the birth of my twin granddaughters in September, I fill any spare time with watching them and the other three grow.

**Fun job.** This is my 23rd year at Eastern Library System and while I profess to "not be a librarian," I have to say that this library stuff has really rubbed off on me.

**Super boss.** I couldn't ask for a better co-worker. Kathy makes coming to work a pleasure and most of the things she asks me to do are interesting and fun. I grumble about a couple of duties - but she is used to it and has learned to ignore me when necessary. We've been through a lot of life changing experiences together. Not sure how we will cope when we both retire.

**All of you.** The ELS board, everyone who comes in to visit or pick up something, everyone I talk to on the phone or see at workshops or conferences - thanks for your smiles. Hopefully, I gave one back.

## *Upcoming Events*

**November 27**—Book Fair (see page 10)

**December 3**—DIRECT Meeting, 9:30 am, Keene Memorial Library, Fremont. Clark Charbonnet from Biblionix, will be demonstrating the Apollo automation software

**December 10** - ELS Board Meeting at the ELS Office - Open House

**February 4**—CLICK Meeting, 9:30 am, Waterloo Public Library

**February 11, 2011** - ELS Board Meeting, Bellevue University, 9:30 am

**February 18**—Summer Reading Program Planning Workshop (more information will be coming)

**February 25**—Library Legislative Day, Lincoln. Plan now to attend.

**April 8, 2011** - ELS Board Meeting, 9:30 am, Wahoo Public Schools

From Sally Snyder  
Nebraska Library Commission

**The top ten books chosen by teens for 2010, aka the 2010 Teens' Top Ten list is:**

1. **Catching Fire** by Suzanne Collins
2. **City of Glass** by Cassandra Clare
3. **Heist Society** by Ally Carter
4. **Shiver** by Maggie Stiefvater
5. **Hush, Hush** by Becca Fitzpatrick
6. **Beautiful Creatures** by Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl
7. **Along for the Ride** by Sarah Dessen
8. **If I Stay** by Gayle Forman
9. **Fire** by Kristin Cashore
10. **Wintergirls** by Laurie Halse Anderson

If you, or your teens, would like to watch a video of the announcement, or would like more information (like previous years lists), go to:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/teenreading/teenstopten/teenstopten.cfm>



**You are invited to a holiday  
open house at the Eastern  
Library System Office on  
December 10th from 2—5 pm.  
Come and visit with staff,  
board and fellow ELS members  
and friends.  
Refreshments will be served.**

## A Note from Maria



ELS Library Family,  
Fred and I want to thank each of you for your prayers, best wishes, cards, and donations provided during out time of need. Your donations have been used to pay our healthy insurance premiums, medical bills not paid by insurance, the very expensive anti-rejection medication, and gas for the constant trips to Omaha for checkups and treatments. It also provided us with some peace of mind so that we could focus on Fred's care.

Although Fred has had some setbacks, especially getting the infection in his new liver under control, he is much better than before he had his liver transplant and each day the pain is les and his energy increases.

We want you to know that your generosity has been a blessing to use and proves beyond a doubt that people in the library world are the 'very best' people around.

We pray that God will bless each of you for your kindness and generosity.

Truly Blessed,  
Fred Nehls and Maria Medrano-Nehls

John Seyfarth, longtime NLA member and technical guru, will retire from library active duty in November. Please join us for a **Celebrate John Day** on November 24th from 9am—5 pm. Drop by the Sump Memorial Library at 222 North Jefferson in Papillion for a day of festivities with coffee and rolls in the morning and cake and punch beginning at 4 pm.



Share your favorite story or photo of John by email ([sumplibrary@gmail.com](mailto:sumplibrary@gmail.com)) or come in person to wish John well in his retirement.

## Grants

### WALMART STORE AND SAM'S CLUB GIVING PROGRAM GRANTS

Grants starting at \$250 and up are available to communities served by Walmart or Sam's Club. Government agencies, including State, county and city agencies are eligible to apply, as are nonprofit organizations, and K-12 Public Schools/Districts, Charter Schools, Community/Junior Colleges, State Colleges and Universities. Please review the guidelines at <http://walmartstores.com/CommunityGiving/8916.aspx> for eligibility. Applications are available at your local Walmart Store or Sam's Club.

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### Grants from the Nebraska Library Commission

You still have time to apply for the **Continuing Education and Training Grant** which is due by December 17, 2010. The purpose of this grant is to assist Nebraska libraries, through continuing education and training for their library personnel and supporters, to improve the library services provided to their communities.

The **Library Improvement Grant**, due by January 7, 2011, is intended to facilitate growth and development of library programs and services in Nebraska public and institutional libraries, by supplementing local funding with federal funds designated for these purposes.

For more information see this website:

<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/grant.html>

# Conference Happenings



Robin Clark, director of Sump Library in Papillion & John Seyfarth who received the Excalibur Award

## System News

### Staff Changes

Krissy Nelson is the new director of the Gretna Public Library and Cherie Anderson is the new director of the Hooper Public Library.

### Fremont

There are Lego parties going on at the Keene Memorial Library. The next two will be held on November 28th and December 26th from 3-4pm. Kids ages 6-10 are invited to come with an adult care-giver and build something together.



### Springfield

The Springfield Public Library has a quilting class the second Saturday of the month from 9 am—3 pm. And, speaking of quilts.....

### Wahoo

The Friends of the library are raffling off a homemade quilt donated by the Wahoo Krazy Quilters. This quilt is 84" X 105" and was made by Rose Rosengren. It was inspired by the book "The Runaway Quilt" by Jennifer Chiaverini. Tickets are \$1.00 each and the drawing will take place in February 2011 during the annual Wine and Dine Fundraiser. You can see the quilt in the library at any time.



## Calendars For Sale

Be sure to get your "Uncensored Librarians" calendar - it is a work of art and will sure to be a collectors gem. Call or email the system office and yours will be

on the way.  
\$20 each.  
Fundraiser  
for the  
Eastern  
Library  
System.



A TRIBUTE TO NEBRASKA LIBRARIES 2011



**Becky Pasco**, professor at the University of Nebraska Omaha, received the Meritorious Service Award.



ELS again had a table in the non-profit area where we sold our "Uncensored Librarians" calendars - we were a popular stopping place.



The Sarpy County Chamber of Commerce presented the 9th Annual Best of Sarpy Expo on Wednesday, November 3rd. The Libraries of Sarpy County were well represented.



(L-R) Lupe Mier, Bellevue - Connie Manzer, Springfield - Rebecca Brooks, Bellevue University  
Krissy Nelson, Gretna - Robin Clark, Papillion, Robin Bernstein, Bellevue University - Rose Barcal - La Vista

### Web Page Change

The ELS webpage is changing format and web host. This will be a work in progress. Hopefully, you will like the new format, however, we welcome your suggestions or comments on how we can make it easier to navigate. Our domain name will remain the same -

[www.elsne.org](http://www.elsne.org).

**CLICK** - Children's Librarians Information Coffee Klatch, meets 4 times a year at ELS libraries. Any youth librarian or school librarian is invited. At our last meeting on November 12th we enjoyed three presentations of ways to enhance programming for youth.

**Toni Reese** from Sump Memorial Library, who is an expert storyteller, gave us examples of ways to make stories come alive, including arm puppets.



**Alice Boeckman**, youth services librarian at Bellevue, played snippets from songs that would work with the theme of Summer Reading next year. She included a list of CD holdings available for loan from Bellevue - (call the system office for a copy.)



**Wendy Anderson**, director of the Elkhorn Branch of the Omaha Public Library, brought several of her puppets.

Something fun always happens at CLICK meetings. The next one is February 4th at the Waterloo Public Library. Don't miss it.





***Libraries & the Mobile Technology Landscape***  
(DVD ) is available for loan from the ELS office.

This presentation will provide an overview of the emerging landscape of information engagement through mobile technology. The presenter will introduce the major mobile technologies and outline their usage as well as the cultural shifts that accompany their introduction into information society. Joe will lead us through an exploration of the opportunities for libraries to implement mobile technologies to enhance or supplement traditional services and collections, and will explain how libraries can most strategically engage these tools as well as the mobile culture. We will discuss the real world changes this means for libraries and the new skills we may have to learn in this evolution. At the conclusion of this session we will all be familiar with how to best meet this shift towards mobile technologies in our libraries. Part of the College of DuPage Teleconference series.

### Sticky Notes

Did you know you could put a sticky note on your computer? No, this does not mean the paper kind.

Windows 7 has a handy Sticky Notes feature that functions as a virtual sticky note on the PC's desktop. Click the Start button, type Sticky Notes into the Search Field, and click the Sticky Notes utility. Simply type your note or whatever you want to remember into Sticky notes, and the notes sit on your Desktop to remind you. You can also copy text from the note to a Web browser, or you can copy text into the virtual sticky note. [Seem in *Smart Computing*, November 2010]

### Library Journal's Top Ten Best Books for 2010

For the very first time, *Library Journal* announces its top ten best books list reflecting fiction and nonfiction titles that stood out as the very best in 2010. The list—compiled with the input of librarians and *LJ*'s stable of book reviewers—represents an assortment of books appropriate for a broad reading audience.

"We can guarantee that each of these books offers a tremendous reading experience. Librarians—and booksellers—should feel confident in recommending them to their readers, suggesting them to book groups, and promoting them through a variety of venues. These are the books

Americans will enjoy reading-and discussing," says Brian Kenney, Editorial Director, *Library Journal* and School *Library Journal*.

### What Ones Have You Read?

The following titles make up the inaugural top ten list:

1. **American Terror** by Rowan Jacobsen (Bloomsbury)
2. **By Nightfall** by Michael Cunningham (Farrar, Straus & Giroux)
3. **Freedom** by Jonathan Franzen (Farrar, Straus & Giroux)
4. **How To Live, Or, a Life of Montaigne in One Question and Twenty Attempts at an Answer** by Sarah Bakewell (Other Press)
5. **Room** by Emma Donoghue (Little, Brown)
6. **The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks** by Rebecca Skloot (Crown)
7. **The Passage** by Justin Cronin (Ballantine)
8. **The Tiger** by John Vaillant (Knopf)
9. **The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration** by Isabel Wilkerson (Random)
10. **Walker Evans Decade by Decade** text by James Crump (Hatje Cantz)

*Whatever the cost of libraries, the cost is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nations. ~ Walter Cronkite*





## Plan Ahead!

### Teen Tech Week is March 6—11

Sponsored by the Young Adult Library Services Association, a division of the American Library Association, Teen Tech Week is a national initiative aimed at teens, librarians, educators, parents, and other concerned adults that highlights non print resources at the library. The 2011 theme - Mix 'n Mash @ your library - focuses on encouraging teens to use library resources to express their creativity by developing their own unique online content and safely sharing it by using online collaborative tools.

There are ten \$450 Mini Grants available that are funded by the Margaret A. Edwards Trust. To find out more about the grant and how to register, visit [www.ala.org/yalsa](http://www.ala.org/yalsa).



### The Polar Express

Hop aboard a holiday classic at [www.polarexpress.com/games](http://www.polarexpress.com/games) for free games, reproducibles, and activities. From December 1-25, the site's "Countdown to Christmas" calendar will also feature new game and activity ideas, contests, and more.

### Top 10 Crime Fiction for Youth: 2010.

Whether your tastes run toward historical whodunits, high-stakes heists, or hard-boiled hawkshaws, outstanding examples of each can be found in the best crime fiction for youth reviewed in *Booklist* over the past 12 months.

**The Adventures of Jack Lime.** By James Leck. 2010. Kids Can, \$16.95 (9781554533640). Gr. 5–8. Leck cleverly retrofits the detective genre with kid-friendly noir touchstones in three short cases starring the narcoleptic, quick-thinking junior gumshoe Jack Lime.

**The Case of the Stinky Socks.** By Lewis B. Montgomery. Illus. by Amy Wummer. 2009. Kane, \$22.60 (9781575652887). Gr. 2–4.

This book hits all the right notes for armchair sleuths as two aspiring kid detectives pool their wits to discover what happened to a pair of lucky sweat socks.

**Cat Burglar Black.** By Richard Sala. Illus. by the author. 2009. Roaring Brook/First Second, paper, \$16.99 (9781596431447). Gr. 7–10.

Enrolled in a boarding school dedicated to the finer arts of burglary, nimble K. embarks on a series of tiptoeing heists at the behest of a secret society in this caper-filled and gothically atmospheric graphic novel.

**The Dunderheads.** By Paul Fleischman. Illus. by David Roberts. 2009. Candlewick, \$16.99 (9780763624989). Gr. 3–5.

A group of kids, each blessed with a hyperspecialized skill set, join forces to infiltrate the lair of a most fearsome teacher and retrieve their classmate's confiscated trinket.

**Gentlemen.** By Michael Northrop. 2009. Scholastic, \$16.99 (9780545097499). Gr. 10–12.

At first, the Raskolnikov act put on by Mike's English teacher just seems like a ploy to bring *Crime and Punishment* home to the remedial set, but when a friend goes missing and the teacher starts behaving even more alarmingly, he finds it awfully hard to ignore the warning signs.

**The Knife That Killed Me.** By Anthony McGowan. 2010. Delacorte, \$16.99 (9780385738224). Gr.10–12.

A no-account teen falls under the influence of a savage bully who wields power with ruthless efficiency in this sobering thriller that cuts to the bone of adolescent violence and portrays the sometimes catastrophic consequences of never fitting in.



## Eastern Library System Board Meeting Minutes

October 8, 2010 – Snyder Public Library

Board Members Present: Joyce Neujahr, Jan Therien, Marie Reidelbach, Gayle Roberts, John Seyfarth, David Privett, Robin Bernstein, Lowen Kruse, Gail Formanack, Mary Jo Mack, Rosa Schmidt, Scott Berryman. Ex-officio: Kathy Tooker, Nancy Meyer. Guests: Betty Niewohner, director of the Snyder Public Library and Richard Miller, Nebraska Library Commission.

Robin called the meeting to order. Two items were added to the agenda. Item B. under new business - “Web Page” and item #10. – Richard Miller’s report. Robin asked everyone to introduce themselves. Betty Niewohner welcomed the board to the library and talked about the library’s remodeling with the addition of more computers and a recent Libri Grant.

Minutes of the August 13, 2010, meeting were discussed. Mary Jo moved and Rosa seconded to approve the minutes with one spelling change (Lori instead of Laurie.) Motion carried.

The treasurer’s reports for July, August and September 2010 were reviewed. They were approved to be filed for audit.

Correspondence: Thank you notes were read from Barb DeFreece, St. Patrick’s School in Elkhorn, Marvel Maring, UNO and Laura Vrana, Mary Our Queen School.

Administrator’s Report: See written report. Kathy announced that the “Help Maria” drive was successful in raising over the amount needed to pay for Maria and Fred Medrano-Nehls health insurance for one month. Kathy also reported on the resignation of Karla Schafer as director of the Hooper Public Library. The board expressed their concern and was in agreement that the Omaha World Herald reporter, who had written a previous article about Karla being awarded “An American Dream” grant from ALA, be contacted again about this recent situation. Kathy stated that John Seyfarth will be receiving the Excalibur Award and Becky Pasco the Meritorious Service award at the NLA/NEMA Fall Conference.

### Committee Reports:

Nominating - Gail said they will be meeting before January.

Fundraising – Marie reported that the calendar is done and selling well.

Technology – The committee will meet after conference.

Continuing Education – Joyce reviewed past and upcoming events. A customer service workshop is scheduled for November 18th. Other suggestions for workshops include: managing staff, technology of E-books, book repair and book clubs. There was discussion on the basic skills classes that will be offered only online beginning next year.

Advocacy – No report.

### New Business:

A. The December 10<sup>th</sup> board meeting will be moved to the ELS office with an Open House following. The April meeting will be held at the Wahoo Public Schools.

B. The ELS webpage will need a new host at the end of November. The technology committee will meet to approve a new site.

Richard distributed a written report highlighting the Nebraska Library Commission’s programs, grants, scholarships, and training opportunities. A kick-off for the BTOP Grant will be held November 9-10 in Lincoln. Public Library accreditations guidelines will be revised next year. Richard said that comments could be made regarding the guidelines on the NLC webpage.

Robin explained a new financial software initiative and asked if members of ELS could be asked to participate in a pilot project at no cost. The board approved her request.

Scott stated that he will be meeting with the League of Municipalities regarding issues on library board governance and library personnel. He will report at the text board meeting.

Marie moved and David seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Meyer  
Administrative Assistant

### Upcoming Board Meetings (note change)

December 10th—ELS office,  
followed by an Open House

February 11th—Bellevue University

April 8th—Wahoo Public Schools





## **Pioneer Consortium Reaches Agreement with PTFS for Open Source ILS Solution**

A group of five Nebraska libraries called the Pioneer Consortium has just successfully concluded a Library Improvement Grant awarded by the Nebraska Library Commission. In this project, Pioneer has determined the feasibility of utilizing open source integrated library system (ILS) software for circulation, cataloging, etc. for its membership as an alternative to their existing ILS systems and as an eventual option for libraries across the state of Nebraska. Basic information about the Pioneer Consortium can be found below.

Open source ILS software differs from current proprietary products sold by a variety of businesses to libraries because with open source there is no cost to obtain the software and source code, and development of the software features is shared among a large community of users. Improvements are made by local libraries and available to all, and most developments are adopted by the entire community as new “releases”. A library or consortium has a choice among several open source products and then has a choice of two basic paths of operation: 1) getting their own server and installing and operating the open source system or 2) having a third party provider host and maintain their system.

Pioneer Consortium has chosen the Koha open source product and the second path of operation, reaching an agreement with LibLime, a division of PTFS, Progressive Technology Federal System Inc. headquartered in Bethesda, MD, to provide the public libraries in Grand Island, Gretna, Holdrege, Lincoln and St. Paul with the following services:

- Installation of open source Koha software for one union catalog of all the members’ holdings
- Circulation, cataloging, public access catalog, acquisitions and other modules required by most libraries
- Configuration tailored to the consortium’s system parameters as well as individual library policies whenever permitted, and branding/look/feel of the software for staff and public
- Data migration, import and record structure profiling in Koha

- Union catalog de-duplication and quality control to allow migrating libraries to easily attach their holdings to already-migrated bibliographic records
- Training
- Maintenance and hosting services - phone and online help desk, backups, upgrades and all system administration
- PTFS-hosted Internet “cloud” access to member libraries

## **Call for Additional Consortium Membership**

As the current Pioneer membership begins this process with LibLime in October 2010, it is also beginning a process of accepting letters of interest from Nebraska accredited public libraries for possible inclusion in the union catalog starting in mid-2011. The consortium anticipates considering additional members on a semi-annual basis thereafter and will work with LibLime and any new members to determine the best means to schedule and pace migration and go-live dates. Pioneer plans to publish additional information of assistance to interested libraries this fall, especially those considering Library Improvement Grant applications through the Nebraska Library Commission for data migration needs.

This process will be opened up to other types of libraries throughout Nebraska starting in 2012.

Letters of interest may be sent to the President of the Pioneer Consortium:

Steve Fosselman  
Grand Island Public Library, 211 North  
Washington Street, Grand Island, NE 68801  
[sf@gi.lib.ne.us](mailto:sf@gi.lib.ne.us) 308-385-5333

## **Basic Membership Costs**

Factoring in both initial and annual maintenance costs, libraries will benefit from a considerable total cost-of-ownership savings with open source software through the Pioneer Consortium.

[continued on next page]

### Initial Costs

Pioneer Consortium Orientation Fee - \$250

One-time database setup charges based on that library's number of bibliographic records: 0-25K -\$750.00, 25-50K—\$1,000.00, 50K+ - \$1,500.00. Charges for data-load, de-duplication, etc. 15 cents per bib.

All libraries are responsible for their own Internet costs, pc workstations, networking structure, local IT and technical services support, etc. There is no need for ILS-related server hardware housing bibliographic/patron/circulation data at each library.

### Annual Maintenance Costs

In 2010/11 the costs of LibLime maintenance - as well as modest costs for development work performed on Pioneer Consortium's behalf by LibLime and "central-library" reimbursement for cataloging/training assistance - will be assessed to all members by formula in relative proportion to their legal service area, operating revenues, collection size and circulation. This assessment formula is based on a minimum annual payment of \$350 or 1% of the total budget, whichever is higher. The Consortium is happy to provide an estimate of costs for various-sized libraries with exact costs to be determined based on all libraries' assessment as per the formula.

These are the basic costs for a full range of Koha open source modules, and do not include future years' maintenance increases charged by LibLime, desired third party add-ons either to be paid by each library or by the Consortium as a whole as budget allows, and more extensive funding for development and "central library" reimbursement. Through the process of spreading costs among additional members, however, the Pioneer Consortium will be able to support such enhancements and total cost of ownership should still remain low in the future.

### **Not Just Cost, But Service Benefits**

For this investment, participating libraries will receive the benefits of a next generation integrated library system with no local responsibility for server maintenance, data recovery or other server-related technical support, as well as transparent access to the collections of other member libraries across the state.

As the Pioneer Consortium works toward its first goal of developing this union catalog, other cost and service benefits can be realized through exploration of ways to reduce or reallocate cataloging and staffing costs for member libraries. This drives the total cost of ownership even lower. And longer-term goals impacting total cost of ownership include shared resource-sharing and other consortium arrangements of benefit to member libraries.

**Pioneer Consortium's overall goals are enhanced efficiency and productivity for Nebraska libraries, and an enhanced experience for any patron using a Nebraska library.**

For morning information on this project, go to:

<http://lclpioneer.wordpress.com/>

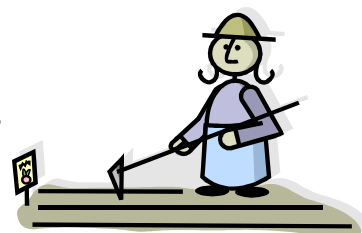
### **Internship Grants Awarded**

The Nebraska Library Association and the Nebraska Library Commission recently awarded

#### **"Cultivating Nebraska Librarians 2.0: Building 21st Century Skills"**

internship grants totaling \$10,000 to twelve Nebraska public libraries. These student internship grants will

support public library interns, who will contribute to the scope and value of the diverse programs and activities in Nebraska's public libraries.



Students will learn about library work as they shadow and assist with day-to-day operations and implement special projects. Interns will lead youth summer reading program activities, conduct training sessions to teach senior citizens to use technology, facilitate book discussion activities, help develop and update library webpages, blogs, etc., create young adult library programs and spaces, help design library parade floats, work on publicity materials for library programs, sort and preserve archival materials, and assist in a host of other worthwhile activities.

Funding for the project was provided through the generosity of a Nebraska charitable foundation that wishes to remain anonymous. Such funding helps the Nebraska Library Association and the Nebraska Library Commission continue to support the missions and goals of libraries across Nebraska and statewide efforts to recruit the next generation of Nebraska's librarians.

The Eastern Library System libraries receiving internship grant funding are:

- Blair Public Library
- Sump Memorial Library, Papillion

# Barnes & Noble BOOKFAIR

**Saturday, November 27**

**9:00 a.m.—10:00 p.m.**

**Barnes & Noble Book Store**

**Oakview Mall**

**144th and Center**



For every purchase made that day (even at the coffee shop) a percentage of the proceeds will be given to the Eastern Library System.

**(Be sure to mention ELS when making purchases—if ordering online use this number—10342921)**

**Give Books for the Holidays**